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This paper will be printed entire, with map, in the 'Journal,' vol. xxxviii.

The PRESIDENT said this paper was one of the many proofs we had had of the scientific abilities of our naval men employed upon the eastern coast of Australia. He would not allude to all that Captains Stanley, Blackwood, or Richards had done upon that coast. He regretted that Captain Richards, the hydrographer, was not present to state what he knew of the researches of Dr. Rattray, who, on board the *Salamander*, employed himself in investigating the physical geography, climate, natural history, and currents, in a way similar to that which Charles Darwin did when accompanying Admiral Fitzroy in his great explorations in the *Beagle.* The manner in which the paper had been put before them must have made all aware of the great qualifications of Dr. Rattray; especially the beautiful manner in which he had brought out the effect produced by the configuration of land and sea upon the nature of the climate. Before calling attention to another small paper which was to be read, he begged to inform the Society that the Council had determined upon applying to her Majesty's Government, through the Secretary of the Colonies, to contribute by their influence and recommendation to the exploration of Australia, from north-east to south-west, across the whole continent, as proposed by Dr. Neumayer at the last meeting. The expedition was to include several men of science, and was to be provided with a number of horses and camels; and to be, in short, the greatest and most important Australian expedition ever attempted. The expense would fall on the colonies, and, from the spirit which animated their governments, he was earnestly hopeful that they would readily acquiesce in the proposal. But it was desirable that scientific Societies like their own, and the Royal Society in particular, should lead the way in recommending this project. The Council of the Geographical Society had accordingly represented to her Majesty's Government the desirability of approving and recommending to the colonial governments the adoption of this great traverse. Dr. Neumayer intended to fall, in latitude 23°, into what he believed to be the principal watery region of Australia, where he can find subsistence; and he had so arranged his journey by stoppages at certain stations, that when he arrived at the central point which Macdougall Stuart reached, he would be able to obtain any supplies that might be required from Adelaide. It was hoped that he would come out at Swan River. This great project had been warmly approved by the Council of the Society.

The PRESIDENT further added that there was one other subject to be noticed at this meeting: it was only mentioned to him that morning by Professor Tennant. There had been discovered in our own settlements on the Orange River, to the north of the Cape of Good Hope, some valuable diamonds. Two of them, which he had seen himself, were now in the possession of Messrs. Garrard. One of them Professor Tennant told him was worth 400*l.*, and another 200*l.* This was a new geographical fact as to the distribution of mineral matter, and he was glad that Professor Tennant had this opportunity of placing it on record in the 'Proceedings' of the Society.

4.—*On the Discovery of Diamonds at Hope Town in the Cape Colony.*

By PROFESSOR J. TENNANT, F.R.G.S.

PROFESSOR Tennant said he had listened with great attention to the last address of the President of the Society, and had ventured to suggest an omission, viz. the finding of diamonds in a new locality—the Cape Colony. He considered the subject of such importance that it ought to be brought before one of our scientific Societies. Two of these diamonds had been some months in London, and were at present in the possession of Messrs. Garrard, jewellers to her Majesty, in the Haymarket, but have been bought by Sir Philip Wodehouse. He saw the first on the 8th of August, 1867; it is in the shape of an octohedron, measuring in one direction three-quarters of an inch and in the other three-eights, being therefore a compressed crystal; it presents a yellowish tinge of colour, and weighs $21\frac{1}{8}\frac{1}{32}$ carats. This was found at Hope Town on the Orange River, Cape of Good Hope.

The second is an octohedron, more symmetrical, and was found June 7th, 1867. It weighs $8\frac{13}{16}$ carats; specific gravity, 3·54.

He had been as brief as he possibly could, simply with the view to place the fact on record. He had been told that six other diamonds had been found. These he had not seen; but on good authority he could believe that four of them were genuine. He was told that the first stone was treated in the usual careless manner. People stated that it was so hard as to resist the blow of a hammer: they took it to a blacksmith, who placed it on an anvil, and struck it with a hammer. He need scarcely say what was the result: the diamond was broken into a thousand pieces, and was, therefore, perfectly useless. It was a generally received opinion that the diamond, in consequence of its extreme hardness, would resist a blow of this kind. This was altogether a mistake. There was not a more brittle substance in nature than the diamond; although so hard as to scratch all other substances, it was, at the same time, so extremely brittle that he should be sorry to let a valuable diamond fall upon the floor. The symmetrical figure of the smaller specimen was well adapted for producing a diamond of the first brilliancy. It was composed actually of two crystals, and by cutting off a point it would produce one of the most brilliant diamonds, probably, that we had. It would be small in size, but in its present state it was worth 200*l.* The other, if placed upon a half-sovereign, would not project over its rim. It was a trifle over the weight of a half-sovereign, and the intrinsic value of it was a thousand times greater than the value of that coin.

The PRESIDENT, after congratulating the Fellows on the success of the past session, and hoping that the Society might be supplied in the ensuing session with equally important and interesting matter, adjourned the meetings to the month of November.